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*COMP. ANAT. AND GEN. ZOOLOGY.*

JOSEPH LEIDY,  
J. M. CORSE,  
J. H. SLACK.

*MAMMALOLOGY.*

J. H. SLACK,  
JOHN CASSIN,  
J. L. LeCONTE.

*ORNITHOLOGY.*

JOHN CASSIN,  
S. W. WOODHOUSE,  
J. H. SLACK.

*HERPETOLOGY & ICHTHYOLOGY.*

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R. BRIDGES,  
J. C. MORRIS.

*CONCHOLOGY.*

T. A. CONRAD,  
W. G. BINNEY,  
G. W. TRYON, JR.

*ENTOMOLOGY AND CRUSTACEA.*

R. BRIDGES,  
E. T. CRESSON,  
J. F. KNIGHT.

*GEOLOGY.*

ISAAC LEA,  
CHARLES E. SMITH,  
J. P. LESLEY.

*MINERALOGY.*

WM. S. VAUX,  
J. C. TRAUTWINE,  
T. D. RAND.

*PALÆONTOLOGY.*

JOSEPH LEIDY,  
T. A. CONRAD,  
J. L. Le CONTE.

*PHYSICS.*

B. HOWARD RAND,  
WM. M. UHLER,  
R. E. ROGERS.

*LIBRARY.*

WM. S. VAUX,  
JOSEPH LEIDY,  
JOSEPH JEANES.

*PROCEEDINGS.*

JOSEPH LEIDY,  
WM. S. VAUX,  
JOHN CASSIN,  
THOMAS STEWARDSON,  
ROBERT BRIDGES.

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*February 2d.*

Vice-President VAUX in the Chair.

Twenty-one members present.

The following were presented for publication :—

“Synoptical List of the Grouse,” &c. By D. G. Elliott.

“Synonymy of the Species of Strepomatidæ, No. 2.” By Geo. W. Tryon, Jr.

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*February 9th.*

Vice-President BRIDGES in the Chair.

Seventeen members present.

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*February 16th.*

Vice-President BRIDGES in the Chair.

Twenty-two members present.

[Feb.

The Committee on Proceedings announced the publication of the Proceedings for December, 1863.

Dr. Wilcox presented for publication a continuation of his paper for January 12th.

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February 23d.

Vice-President BRIDGES in the Chair.

Twenty-two members present.

The following was presented and unanimously adopted:—

*Resolved*, That the specimens of antique art belonging to the Academy be deposited in the Museum of the American Philosophical Society, provided that they shall be returned on demand, and that the Curators of the Society shall give a receipt for the same to the Curators of the Academy.

On report of the respective committees, the following were ordered to be published:—

**The Crania of COLYMBUS TORQUATUS and C. ADAMSII compared.**

BY ELLIOTT COUES, M. D.

I have already, in a previous paper,\* presented the external characters of size, form, and color by which the *C. Adamsii* may be distinguished from the common *C. torquatus*. To more completely substantiate the claims of the former to specific distinction, which I understand is denied it by some ornithologists, I have taken advantage of an opportunity of comparing the crania of the two species, to present the marked points of difference, as regards size and shape, which an examination of the skulls shows to exist. It is perfectly easy to diagnose either species from the characters of their crania alone.

As might be expected from the relative dimensions of the two birds, the cranium of *C. Adamsii* is considerably larger than that of *C. torquatus*. The difference is particularly striking in the length of the skull, taken as a whole, as well as in the longitudinal dimensions of its individual elements. The total length exceeds that of *C. torquatus* by fully an inch; and the difference in the length of particular bones, as the intermaxillary, palatals, malars, vomer, etc., is proportionately as much. In connection with this increase in the length of skull, there is to be taken into consideration another point, which confers upon the cranium of *C. Adamsii* a marked difference in general contour,—viz., its remarkable narrowness. In width at the several points, the cranium by no means preponderates over that of *C. torquatus* in proportion to its marked difference in length. Thus, is diameter across the fronto-maxillary suture, or across the anterior or posterior orbital process, is, both absolutely and relatively, but little greater than that of *C. torquatus*, while across the mastoid processes the width is absolutely the same, and therefore relatively less in *C. Adamsii*.

The external character, which is perhaps the most distinctive feature of *C. Adamsii*—viz., the size and shape of the bill, corresponds, of course, to a like modification of the proportions of the intermaxillary and inferior maxillary bones. In fact, the difference in the relative proportions of the crania of the

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\* Vide Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci., Philada., April, 1862, p. 227.